



Post Office Rifles



Images for classroom use



The
Postal
Museum



Royal Mail



The Postal Museum Learning resource Terms of Use



- By downloading this PowerPoint and using these images you agree to The Postal Museum and Royal Mail Group Ltd terms of use.
- The material in this PowerPoint is provided for non-commercial and educational use in your classroom.
- You can use the presentation or individual images in lessons and activities, and print out the images for use in your classroom.
- You can share the presentation with other teachers for non-commercial and educational use in their classrooms.
- Image credits must be included wherever the image is used. These are below each image, e.g. ©The Postal Museum 2010-0423/2
- Non-The Postal Museum material is included at the agreement of the copyright holder and must also be credited, e.g. ©Courtesy of BT heritage and archives

G. R.



THE

POST OFFICE RIFLES.

8TH BATTALION CITY OF LONDON REGIMENT

Are in Urgent Need of Recruits to complete Establishment of the 3rd Battalion, and an earnest appeal is therefore made to all Officers of Military age who are desirous of assisting their colleagues now fighting in Flanders.

The Object of the 3rd Battalion is to supply drafts, after having received the necessary training.

1. HOW TO ENLIST.

- (1) See your Postmaster and obtain official permission.
- (2) Having obtained permission write to Officer Commanding POST OFFICE RIFLES, 130, Bunhill Row, London, E.C.
- (3) You should not be less than 5ft. 2in. in height with an expanded chest measurement of 34in.
- (4) **Age limits - 19 to 40. 19 to 45 ex Soldiers.**

2. TERMS OF SERVICE.

- (1) Four years or duration of the War.
- (2) Foreign Service Only.
- (3) Free Discharge on termination of War or engagement.

3. **Civil Posts will be kept open until return from Military Service, and such service will count for Civil Pension and for Increment of Civil Salary.**

4. THE PAY OF A RIFLEMAN is equal to full Civil Pay in the case of all Established Officers, plus Free Kit, Rations and Quarters. N.C.O's receive Extra Pay of their Rank supplemental to Civil Pay. Un-established Officers receive Full Army Pay and Allowances, Free Kit, Rations and Quarters.

APPROVED BY THE
POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

(Signed) A.M.O.
27/5/16.

(Signed)

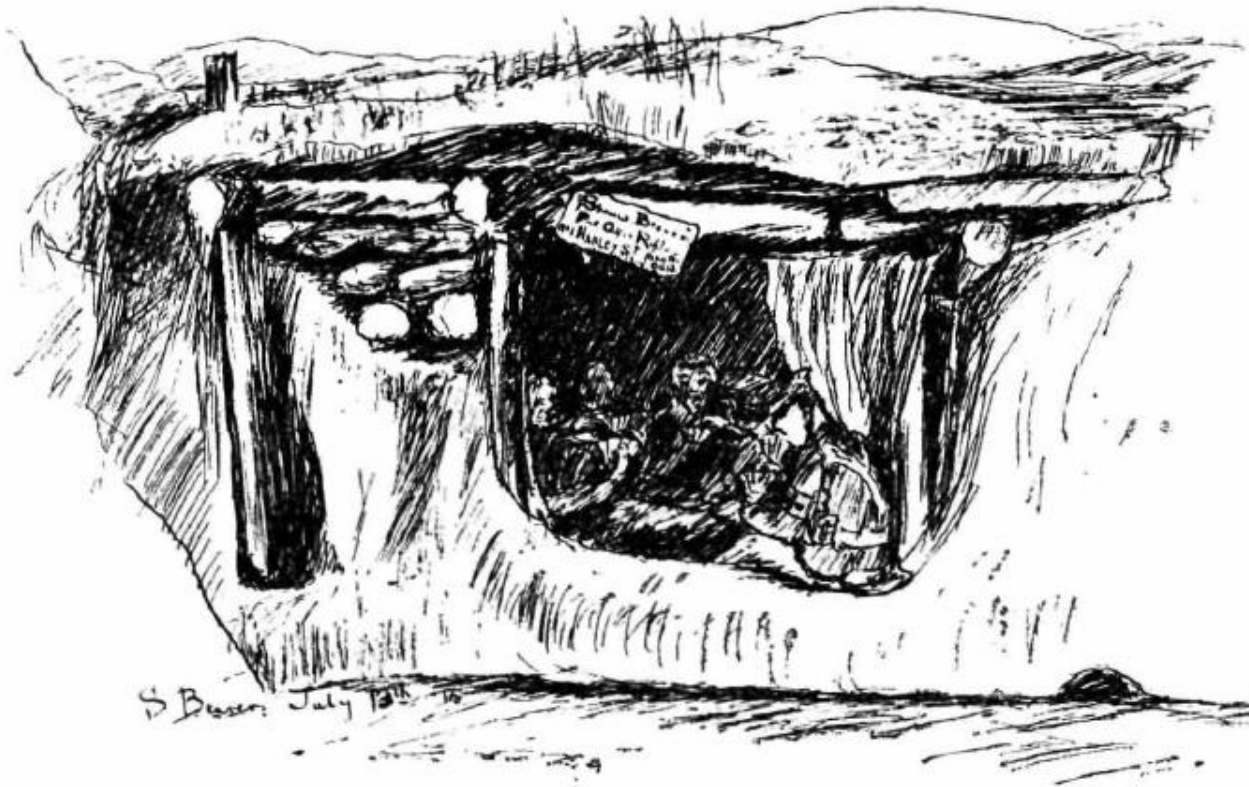
J. HARVEY,
Lieut.-Col. 1/8th Battalion City of London Regiment.
(British Expeditionary Force)
F. A. LABOUCHERE,
Lieut.-Col. 2/8th City of London Regiment.
F. OWEN,
Major 3/8th City of London Regiment.

GOD SAVE THE KING.





©The Postal Museum, OB1998-0352-7
8th Battalion Post Office Rifles cap badge.



POST OFFICE RIFLES' DUG-OUT.
(No. 1, Harley Street.)

©Royal Mail Group Ltd 2014, courtesy of The Postal Museum, St Martins le Grand, 1915
POST 92

This illustration from St Martins Le Grand, General Post Office magazine 1915 shows a Post Office Rifles dug out at the Front Line nicknamed 'No 1. Harley Street'.





London Boys at D.C.P. Nov. 1st 1917

©Courtesy of The Peace Pledge Union

Over 400 General Post Office employees became Conscientious Objectors. Henry Horace Peacock was a letter sorter and a deeply religious man. Ordered to report to Mill Barracks in 1917 he refused to obey orders, pick up arms, put on a uniform or sign documents. As a result he was sentenced to hard labour first in Wormwood Scrubs and then in Dartmoor Prison Camp where he spent the rest of the war. Henry is not in this photograph of conscientious objectors at Dartmoor Prison.



POST OFFICE PRISONERS OF WAR, WUSTERMARK, GERMANY, JULY, 1916.

©Royal Mail Group Ltd 2014, courtesy of The Postal Museum, St Martin's Le Grand, 1916, POST 92

Many postal workers who had left to fight were taken captive. Outward bound mail for British POWs (and inward bound mail for German POWs) passed through neutral Holland.



Kriegsgefangenen-Postsendung

Seldpostkarte

Postbrief

London E.S. PAID

60/237

in

Wohnung
(Straße und Hausnummer)

F 36

Abtender: { Dienstadt Name }
(Nachstehende Spalten genau nach der vom Truppenteil gegebenen Anweisung ausfüllen.)

Sonstige Formationen:
(Gewerben, Sieger, Linker usw.)

Ngt. Nr.

{ Bataillon
Abteilung
Kompanie
Batterie
Eskadron }

Seldpostnummer darf bei Stäben von
Zirkelkorps, Divisionen und Brigaden und
bei Formationen, die einem Dienstver-
band angehören, nicht angegeben werden.

Deutsche Seldpost Nr.

*Mrs E. M. Brown,
Highfield,
7 Carew Road
Eastbourne,
Sussex,
England.*

*Y. 934. Riflesman
Brown*

©The Postal Museum, PH11.12

This postcard from a British Prisoner of War was sent home to his mother.

All correspondence to German POWs was examined in a special laboratory to detect secret writing. In Britain, enemy prisoners could only write on glazed patterned paper that prevented the use of invisible ink. No envelopes and very few photographs or pictures were allowed.

14 Aldibert Terrace
 3th Lambeth
 Dec 9 '15

Instructions for mother
 to act on after I have
 been called up;

All money received from
 Post Office to be entered in
 book page 51 and then put in
 box. * Overtime (Christmas)
 balance of wages was up.
 any money owing to me
 any money I sent home

The money is not to be used
 on any account except when
 very hard pressed. I charge
 you on your honour as my
 mother to take strict care of
 it, for I shall never forgive
 deception. It is not to be lent
 out. Only in the event of
 my death is it to be used.
 Then everything I possess
 except the asphaltum
 plant of mine, I give to you.
 The plant, I with my last
 wish, leave to and must
 be given to

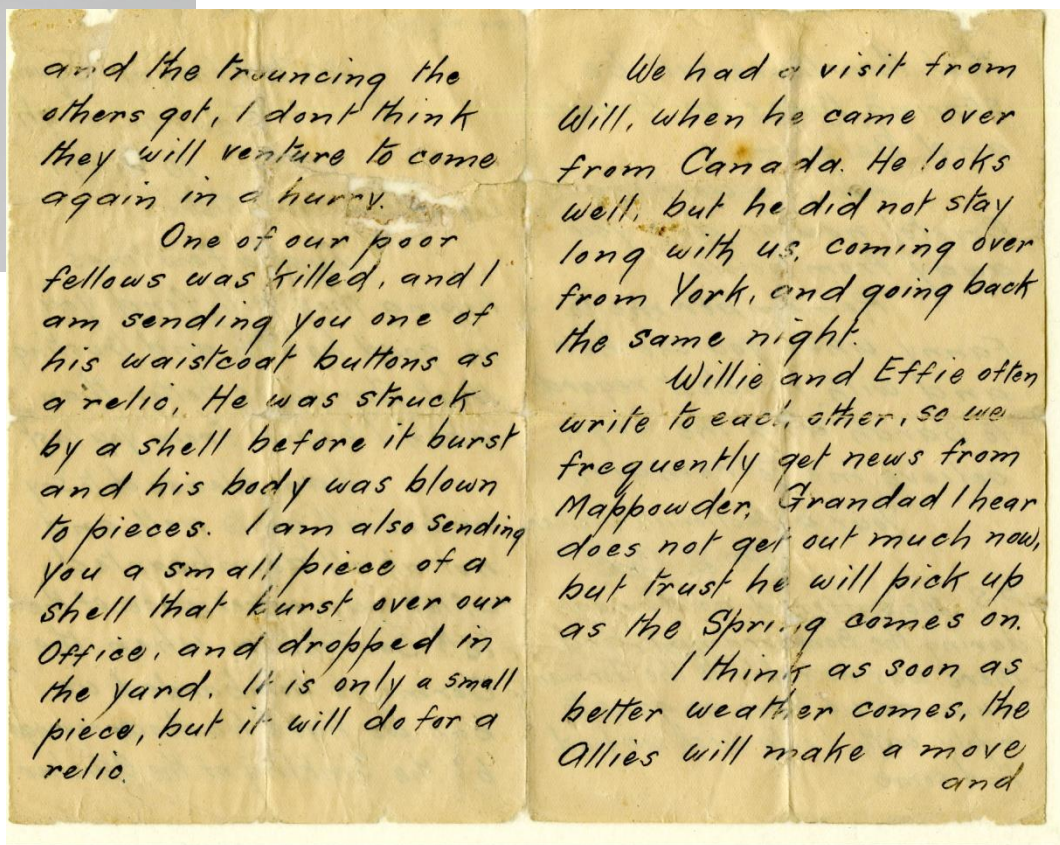
She must be Miss Florence Smith
 known in my
 close as my
 love with
 every respect

I the undersigned wrote
 this in full possession of
 my senses on this day
 Dec. 9 1915
 Leonard Eldridge



©The Postal Museum, 2007-0140.5

This is the battlefield will of Post Office Rifle Leonard Eldridge. In it he leaves his army pay to his mother and his plant to his girlfriend. It was often the case that due to their young age soldiers had very little to leave to their loved ones.



©The Postal Museum, 2007-0141

Private William Cox sent home this OXO tin containing the GPO button from the uniform of a friend killed in action and a piece of shell, that in the accompanying letter he described 'burst over the office and dropped in the yard'.



ST. MARTIN'S ROLL OF HONOUR DESIGN COMPETITION.

1ST PRIZE.

MR. F. ROSIER, Sub-Postmaster, Frant.

Judge:—J. BYAM SHAW, A.R.W.S.



©Royal Mail Group Ltd 2014, courtesy of The Postal Museum, St Martin's Le Grand, 1917, POST 92

This is a winning design for a Roll of Honour erected by the General Post Office in 1917. Most General Post Office building, sorting offices and Post Offices were given war memorials to honour workers who had fought and fallen.





©Royal Mail Group Ltd , 2014

This photograph is of the war memorial on the exterior of Mount Pleasant, a large sorting office in Clerkenwell, London.



March 29th 1918.

Dear Madam,

On my way to the fighting lines I found the body of Capt. H. Peel who I gather from the letters which were lying on his side, was your husband.

Although every & sometimes deeply hurt by the ridiculous tone of your home press, I feel it is a human duty to communicate you these sad news.



Captain Home Peel

©The Postal Museum OB1997.212.46 Photograph of Captain Home Peel

©The Postal Museum OB1997.212.11 Home Peel's medals

©The Postal Museum OB1997,212.37 Letter from German soldier to Home Peel's wife



Westchester Medal Verification Service

35 EDGEWOOD RD.
PEEKSKILL, N.Y.
10566



T. KISSANE
R. CRAWFORD

OBITUARY:

"Captain Home Peel, D.S.O., M.C., London Regiment, was reported missing on 24th of March and is now officially reported killed on that date, was the only son of Mr. & Mrs. Charles Peel of Pairview, Sunninghill, Ascot. Born in 1895, he was educated at Charterhouse and privately, and entered the India Office in 1906. He was resident clerk from 1907 to 1910, in which year he became assistant private secretary to the Secretary of State. In the following year he was appointed private secretary to the Parliamentary Under Secretary, and in 1912 was promoted senior clerk. He obtained leave to join the army in September 1914, and was given a commission in the Post Office Rifles. He was gazetted adjutant on 29th October, 1915 and was attached to the Staff from July 1916 to July 1917 though he returned to his regiment during the battle of the Somme. Appointed Staff Captain in July 1917 and Brigade Major 14th November, 1917. Captain Peel was awarded the Military Cross in January 1916 and the Distinguished Service Order last January, and was three times Mentioned in Despatches. He married in 1913, Gwendolen, elder daughter of Lord and Lady Emmott, and leaves two daughters."

London Times, 15th May, 1918

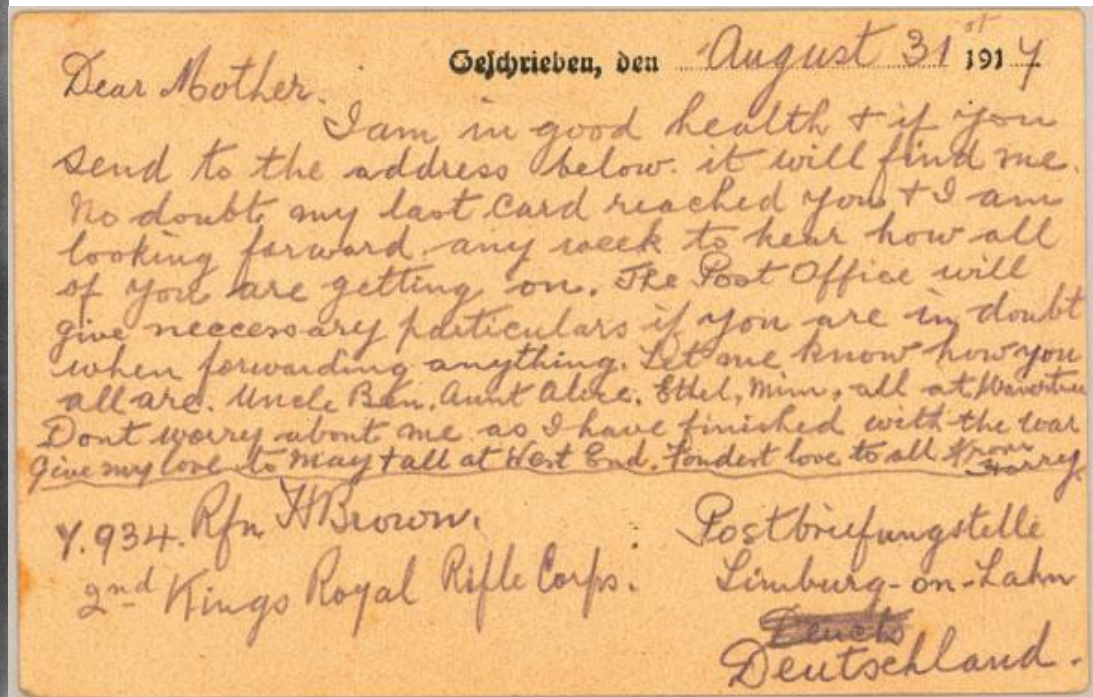


Captain Home Peel

©The Postal Museum & Archive OB1997.212.11 Home Peel's Obituary

©The Postal Museum & Archive OB 1997.212.63 Photo of Home Peel's grave





Rifleman Harry Brown

©The Postal Museum 18868391592 Photograph of Harry Brown with rifle and sheep skin.

©The Postal Museum 21285707359 Postcard from a Prisoner of War camp sent by Harry Brown to his mother.





Sgt Alfred Knight

©Courtesy of Anne Walsh Photograph of Sgt. Alfred Knight

©Copyright Cuneo Estate Painting of Wurst Farm Ridge by Terence Cuneo.





Sgt. Thomas May

©The Postal Museum & Archive 2013._0021_1 Portrait of Sgt. Thomas May

©The Postal Museum & Archive 2013._0021_3 Photograph of Sgt. Thomas May (second left on front row) and his company.